



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

November 20, 2001

Mr. Stephen A. Mahfood
Director
State of Missouri
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176

Dear Mr. Mahfood:

Thank you for your kind words regarding my appointment as Assistant Secretary in your letter of September 27, 2001. I am enthusiastic about this challenging cleanup mission and look forward to working with our stakeholders to fulfill and improve on the vision of my predecessors.

I believe the site has been working toward a reasonable post-remediation plan. This plan has been under development for several years, and we have implemented an effective planning process to meet our goals.

Many technologies have been successfully implemented for the design and construction of the disposal facility, the cement stabilization of waste sludge, the management cell leachate with geochemical/biological barriers, and macro-encapsulation of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and nitroaromatic wastes, among many others. Many of the technologies and engineering approaches developed at Weldon Spring have been utilized at other sites across the Environmental Management complex, including its sister site, Fernald. As you are aware, site-specific conditions impact the remedial approach and the technologies required to be protective of human health and the environment. I assure you for every remediation measure undertaken and planned to be undertaken at Weldon spring, recent technologies were thoroughly evaluated to ensure effective, long-term remediation performance.

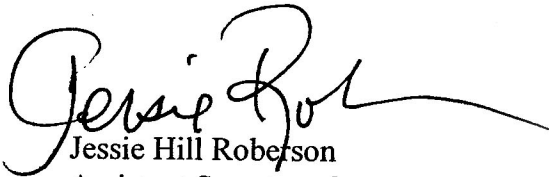
As the end of the project approaches, I understand your concerns about our commitment to the cleanup at Weldon Spring. However, there is a regulatory framework established by CERCLA under which this project has operated for many years. We should continue to utilize that process to define the work required during the last year of the project and for post-remediation care of the site. It has been a complex challenge for this organization, but I am confident the Weldon Spring staff has successfully met the challenge and will continue to do so until completion of the project. However, I would be glad to meet with you. Please notify Ms. Pat Baptiste at (202) 586-1731 of your availability.



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If you have any further questions, please contact me at (202) 586-7710 or Betty A. Nolan, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 586-7328.

Sincerely,


Jessie Hill Robertson
Assistant Secretary for
Environmental Management

cc: G. Boyd, OR
L. Dever, OR
R. Nelson, OR
P. Thompson, OR
D. Bergman-Tabbert, GJ
D. Wall, EPA Region VII